Hotseat
Spring 2022
Eastman Department of Orthodontics
To all our alumni, faculty, students and staff,

Covid...Covid...Covid. It seems that this entity is here to stay and another booster is already being advised. We have learned how to manage with Covid in our midst thanks to a stringent protective protocol in place at EIOH. I guess everyone is looking forward to the summer with lots of outdoor time and when appropriate indulge in “new normal” activities or at least as close as possible to a pre-covid time. But, as one hears of increases in infections then it looks even the latter is but a pipe-dream. However, we have lots to be thankful for and hope the AAO in Miami will be an opportunity to catch-up.

Our clinical and didactic activities at Eastman Orthodontics are in full-swing. In addition, our junior class just returned from attending the Tweed course in Tucson, Arizona and our seniors have completed the ABO written exam on April 5th. Our didactic classes have been mostly through Zoom and this format has become the new norm. I must say that the Zoom has been well-received as it has provided the flexibility during a time when in-person learning remained problematic. I foresee that this format will be a permanent feature for us. However, exceptions will exist and some classes, in particular hands-on activities will continue in-person with the required social-distancing. Our Eastman Orthodontics clinic has increased the pace since the shutdown for Covid and learning is in top gear. I cannot believe that we are already in the process of planning for graduation. Importantly, for continuation of patient care as well as more orthodontic leaning, our new class of residents will start in mid-June. In addition, we have four preceptors who will start their 1-year program. Two of the present preceptors were successful in applying to the Eastman ortho residency and they are part of the new resident class who will start the ortho program in June 2022. Besides the intensive orthodontic didactic program with a required research project (some of the residents completed Master’s degrees) we also have a number of Master’s projects in progress which are not linked to the ortho residency. One resident is also in a doctorate program. Needless to say, education is a high standard and the orthodontics program has provided educational opportunities second to none. At this time, we have at least 4 out of the 6 senior residents with either a publication or one in the process of being published. Two residents presented posters at the past NESO meeting and will again participate at the upcoming AAO 2022 conference. Our senior class will also exhibit clinical cases as part of the annual CDABO endeavor. I am proud of our resident accomplishments. Our junior class is hard at work attaining the milestones to complete the program successfully and I hope that I can also provide accolades when the next Spring Hotseat see the light in 2023. We selected a wonderfully, diverse and competent group of residents starting in June 2022. I hope you meet them soon. An opportunity may be presented at the alumni function at the AAO 2022 should they be able to attend.

I received news that three of our previous class of residents (Class of 2021), Drs. Mohamed Abdulati, Aliaa Al-Khateeb and Taylor Squires successfully passed the ABO Scenario-based exam of February 2022 to become ABO certified orthodontists. My information indicates that the others of this class will pursue certification at a next exam. Another feat to be proud of; our residents set the trend. The one thing that we missed during the past two years was our Alumni Meeting at the AAO Conference. I hope you are all well and I look forward to see you in May at the AAO 2022 Conference.
We have a strong group of full- and part-time faculty members dedicated to our resident education. To further enhance the team, I am in the process of recruiting faculty in both these groups. Moreover, we have a full staff component, which ensures comprehensively supported administrative and clinical activities.

A big thank you to the contributors of the Subtelny Fund and of the Alumni Inner Circle gifting fund which are utilized to enhance Eastman Orthodontics. Funding from these sources ensures that we have the latest technology available to us to ensure that Eastman Orthodontics thrives. It is imperative to provide our residents with not only a superb education, but also to expose them to the latest technological advances to complement their education.

My best wishes to you. I look forward to seeing you soon at the AAO, but please come and visit us at EIOH and share a practice pearl with our residents.

Best Regards,

Emile

A message from our Assistant Program Director Dr. Dimitris Michelogiannakis:

Dear Eastman family,

As our life is returning to the "new normal" it has been an exciting past year regarding our residents’ education and departmental proceedings. With a combination of in person classes and distance learning (Zoom) our residents and preceptors have been receiving excellent education and preparation for the American Board of Orthodontics Examination. In addition, our residents have been exposed to novel research opportunities/projects including clinical studies, animal studies, in vitro studies and reviews. Some projects have already resulted in superb publications and awards. On a personal note, this year has been very special as I am getting married with my partner of 12 years, Elli Anna, who is also an Eastman alumna and clinic director at the Eastman Periodontology Department. I was awarded my second orthodontic faculty development fellowship award by the American Association of Orthodontists Foundation and I have been elected as the new secretary of the Section on Orthodontics, American Dental Education Association. In addition, with the support of our Eastman family, I have become an affiliate of the Edward H. Angle Society of Orthodontists, North Atlantic Component. I am looking forward to representing our department and serve our wonderful profession in my new roles. I would like to thank our staff, residents, faculty and alumni for all their support which enables us to maintain our high clinical, didactic and research standards.

Best regards,

Dimitrios Michelogiannakis
We welcome our new first year residents, Class of 2023!

Dr. Fares Alshuraim was born and raised in Khobar, Saudi Arabia. He received his BDS from IAU School of Dentistry in Saudi Arabia. After his studies, he stayed on as a Teaching Assistant dentist for one year and was granted the Best Teaching Assistant Award. He attended Warner School of Education and Eastman at the University of Rochester, where he earned a MSc in Health Profession Education and a certificate in AEGD. Fares’ interest in teaching and learning inspired him to further expand his knowledge and skills in the field, and he’s currently a doctoral candidate in Education at Warner School, focusing his scholarly work on entrepreneurship education to cultivate innovation in Dentistry. Fares is thrilled with his journey at the department of Orthodontics and is looking forward to a lifelong journey of teaching and practicing Orthodontics and empowering dentists to become entrepreneurs and change agents. Fares is also interested in economics, politics, history, and cultures. He’s also fond of cooking authentic food and enjoys sharing it with friends and loved ones. He believes that food is one way to unite people from all walks of life and cultures, make them happy, and promote better understanding and harmony.

Dr. Stefani Berry was born in Rochester NY and raised 90 miles north of NYC. She attended Spelman College in Atlanta, G.A. and graduated with a B.S. in biology. After college, Stefani attended Howard University College of Dentistry where she had the opportunity to attend mission trips to Jamacia to provide dental treatment to the citizens. Before attending Eastman, Stefani worked alongside her mother as a General Dentist in Troy and Schenectady NY. Stefani completed her preceptorship at Eastman Institute for Oral Health and is currently a student in the Master of Dental Science Program. In her free time, Stefani likes to cook and is currently working on a cookbook. She enjoys dancing, traveling and being around family and friends. Stefani is excited to be a part of the Eastman Orthodontic family and is enjoying her time as a resident.

Dr. Matthew Sawaged was born and raised in the beautiful state of New Jersey. Born to a Cuban mother and Jordanian father, his household was blessed with a delicious multicultural cuisine that led him to remain in New Jersey to complete his undergraduate education. Following a fruitful high school and academy soccer career, he received an athletic scholarship to attend Rutgers University New Brunswick where he majored in Exercise Science. During this period, he developed a passion for writing music, which along with soccer remains an enjoyable pastime. Following his college graduation, Matthew spent one year teaching Biology at a public school in Newark, New Jersey. He eventually moved to Baltimore, Maryland where he received his dental degree at the University of Maryland. This is also where he met his beautiful fiancé Maria, who will be completing her residency in pediatric dentistry at Stony Brook this May, prior to their wedding in August. Mathew is grateful to be part of such a strong and supportive Eastman family and hopes to continue to contribute to its long-standing legacy of excellence. Matthew enjoys hiking and playing chess and aspires to someday cook as well as his parents.
Dr. Daisy Salazar was born and raised in Caracas, Venezuela. She completed her dental degree at the Universidad Central de Venezuela. Her path in dentistry has been very unique and enriching in both knowledge and experience. She attended the University of Michigan, where she received a MSc degree and Cert. in Restorative Dentistry. Upon graduation, she accepted a full-time faculty position at the University of Michigan and later continued her academic career at the University of Illinois in Chicago. During her time at UIC, she was promoted to Clinical Associate Professor and developed a new curriculum in Digital Dentistry. She became the first junior faculty appointed as director of a new CAD/CAM clinic and digital dentistry course. In addition to her private practice and teaching duties, she enrolled in a DMD program for international-trained faculties and graduated in 2016. In 2021, she completed a 1-year residency in pediatric dentistry at Eastman Institute for Oral health and was also accepted to their orthodontic residency program. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, working-out, and discovering new hidden restaurants. Daisy feels very grateful for the opportunity in becoming an orthodontist under the guidance of her new Eastman family!

Dr. Darren Morgan, a lifelong Knicks, Giants, and Yankees fan, was born in the Bronx, New York and raised in New Jersey. He earned his BS degree in Biology from Hampton University, a historically Black research university in Hampton, Virginia, and later earned his MS degree in Biomedical Sciences from Rutgers University. Darren attended dental school at Nova Southeastern University. During his time as a dental student, he served on the board for many clubs, was an active peer tutor, collaborated on original orthodontic research, and was elected to the Omicron Kappa Upsilon National Dental Honor Society. In his personal life, Darren has maintained the stance that mentorship is essential, and as the oldest of five brothers and sisters, he has not only established a mentor role within his family, but also in his community as a “Big Brother mentor” in the Big Brothers, Big Sisters of America program. Darren enjoys hiking with his wife and dog, biking, playing basketball, and reading. He is extremely grateful for the opportunity to study orthodontics at Eastman and would like to thank the Eastman faculties for their guidance and instruction thus far, as well as his co-residents for helping to make this experience truly special.

Dr. Thomas N Rafaill was born in Rochester, NY---while his father was attending none other than Eastman Dental for his orthodontic residency. Raised in Grosse Pointe Shores, MI, Tom completed primary school and received a scholarship to The University of Detroit Mercy 7-year dental program in 2014. During his undergraduate studies, he founded and presided over a political debate club, which was influential in registering young voters for the 2016 election. He graduated from The University of Detroit Mercy in an accelerated three year program with a degree in biology. Inspired and determined to become a third-generation orthodontist, he attended The University of Detroit Mercy for dental school, where he received his DDS in 2021. While in dental school, he founded a scrub uniform company, which he still manages with business partners in his free time. Outside of business and studies, Tom enjoys golfing, fishing, hiking, tennis, and skiing in the winter. He is very humbled and thrilled to be receiving his orthodontic training at Eastman, and plans to return to Michigan after graduation to create straight, beautiful smiles with his family.
An update from our current senior class:
Graduation is just around the corner and the senior class is busy finishing cases. Here are some updates from the seniors and their plans for next year.

Dr. Barbara Sterniczuk Dear Eastman; I will miss you dearly. These short two years have flown by, and I cannot believe how much precious knowledge and skill I have gained thanks to this fantastic group of Eastman Ortho faculty. I would also like to thank all of the supportive staff that have been by my side while treating each and every patient. And of course, I so appreciate my wonderful co-residents which have been my main support system and have made me look forward to each day here at Eastman. As bittersweet as it will be to be leaving Rochester, I look forward to finally rejoining my fiancé in Canada after six years apart while I completed my dental education in the United States. I am so excited to be able to spend more time with family and reconnect with old friends in the Toronto area. I can’t wait to be starting my career as an orthodontist in private practice, hitting the ski slopes all across the great white North, and discovering new delicious global wines on future international adventures!

Dr. Shaahin Dadjoo It was a hugely fulfilling challenge to finish the two years completing the program and achieving my MS. My favorite memories are playing Settlers of Catan, running the Rochester half marathon, and hearing stories from the old days with Dr. Subtelny's Hotseat seminars! I did not expect to learn so much about the human body in such a short amount of time! My senior research was published and focused on adjunct treatments for Temporomandibular disorders while my masters thesis involved an NIH funded study investigating how mitochondrial dysfunction affects the growth of the craniofacial complex. I am pleased to be joining my wife in California, and associating with Eastman alumni Dr. Ishkahn John Bayrakdarian (Ortho '03) whom I look forward to learning a lot from. It was a privilege to be a resident in the Orthodontic department of the Eastman Dental Center. My eternal thanks to Dr. Rossouw for selecting me to become an Eastman orthodontist and changing my life forever! I want to especially thank our faculty for spreading their love of orthodontics through their commitment and passion. Thank you to our staff for making everyday a “great day for orthodontics”.

Dr. Aristeidis Panagiotou I am so grateful and honored to be part of the Eastman family. The last two years have been amazing and full of great memories. I am so thankful for our faculty, who shared their knowledge and experience with us and our staff, who always helped us in the clinic and made our residency memorable. I have also had the pleasure to work and have fun with my co-residents, who have been my second family. After graduation, I plan to move to Texas with my family and work in a private practice.
Dr. Diaa Ossama Allahham  Eastman is my second home. I’ve had the honor of spending four years of my life at Eastman and I have enjoyed every moment. I have successfully completed a Master’s of Science in Dental Sciences and now my dream of becoming an orthodontist has finally come true. I still can’t believe it’s all over! I feel blessed to have been part of the Eastman family. I have absolutely enjoyed learning from all the faculty and their unique perspectives on orthodontics. I would like to thank all my family, faculty, classmates, assistants, and staff for all the support during this wonderful journey. I am very thrilled to begin the next chapter of my life. After graduation, my long-term goals include opening my own office and continuing my father’s orthodontic legacy. For now, I look forward to practicing in a private practice setting in Texas this summer.

Dr. Parveen Virdee  The last two years have been an incredible journey in residency at the Eastman Orthodontic Department. I have learned and grown so much thanks to the guidance and support of all the amazing faculty, staff and my co-residents. I am looking forward to the next stage of my career doing what I love and serving the community in private practice in Rochester. As well as working, I am excited to spend some more quality time with my family and hope to travel abroad as much as possible.

Dr. Camille Leong  I am so grateful to have been able to come back to my hometown Rochester, NY and pursue specialty training in orthodontics. Our wonderful faculty and staff have taught me so much over the last 2 years. I am looking forward to utilizing all my newly gained skills and knowledge as an orthodontist on the west coast!

Good luck to the Class of 2022 who are off to new places and exciting careers!
Department News:

Dr. Diaa Ossama Allahham won 2nd place and Dr. Aris Panagiotou won 3rd place for their research presentations at the virtual NESO conference.

Diaa presented on the association between non-extraction clear aligner therapy and alveolar bone dehiscences and fenestrations in adults with mild-to-moderate crowding and Aris presented on role of essential oil-based mouthwashes in controlling gingivitis in patients undergoing fixed orthodontic treatment.

We would also like to congratulate Dr. Dimitris for his new role of Associate Professor! He was also the winner of the 2022 Orthodontic Faculty Development Fellowship Award (OFDFA) and the 2022 AAO Full Time Faculty (FFT) Fellowship award. He was elected the Secretary role in the Section on Orthodontics (SOO), American Dental Education Association (ADEA). He was also indicted into the Edward H. Angle Society of Orthodontists, North Atlantic Component. Dr. Dimitris has also been invited as a guest editor for the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health.

Senior residents Dr. Parveen Virdee, Dr. Shaahin Dadjoo, and Dr. Barbara Sterniczuk presented “Cleft Lip and Palate: a review for the Dental Specialist and General Practitioner” at Grand Rounds!

Orthodontic Treatment of Cleft Lip and Palate Patients

Presented by the Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics Department, Class of 2022
Both Senior and Junior Residents were able to attend the Tweed course this year!
GORP was a blast this year! Junior and senior residents were so grateful to be able to attend this year. We were even able to reconnect with some amazing alumni!

Lots of learning at Align Technologies Residents Summit in North Carolina this year!
Residents at Great Lakes Dental Technologies during the intense laboratory techniques course

Dr. Angelo Miraldi came all the way from Italy to give us a fantastic Invisalign lecture!
A warm welcome to our new employee: Paul Monachino! Paul is joining us as a Patient Experience Specialist. We look forward to working together as a team!

Resident Daisy Salazar met members of Congress at the Capitol during the Professional Advocacy Conference organized by the AAO. She advocated for different priorities including issues concerning direct-to-consumer or mail-order orthodontics, patient access to orthodontic care, and federal student loan relief.

Elizabeth retired this year! Thank you Elizabeth Chernyak for all of your years assisting us at Eastman Ortho! Congratulations on your retirement!
Barbara Birecree celebrates 45 years at Eastman Dental! Thank you Barbara for all of your dedication and service!

Congratulations to our faculty member Dr. Maureen Wood (AEGD 2010, Ortho 2012)! Baby #2 was born July 2, 2021. Say hello to the second newest member of the Eastman family, Calvin Scothorn Petty!

Congratulations to our senior resident Dr. Aris Panagiotou on his beautiful baby boy born July 4th, 2021. Say hello to the newest member of the Eastman family, Ioannis!
News from our Alumni!

Dr. Chris Roberts (General Dentistry ’84, Ortho ’87, pictured left) has completed his term as president of the American Association of Orthodontists in May 2021. He continues to teach at the University of Michigan and has taken over as the director of the Graduate Orthodontic Residency Program (GORP).

Dr. Aida Ameri (Ortho 2013’, pictured right) received her ABO (American Board of Orthodontists) Board Certification. Congratulations to Dr. Ameri!

Drs. Mohamed Abdulati (Ortho 2021’ – left), Aliaa Al-Khateeb (Ortho 2021’ - middle) and Taylor Squires (Ortho 2021’ - right) successfully passed the ABO Scenario-based exam of February 2022 to become ABO certified orthodontists. Congratulations doctors!

Dr. Leah Peres (left) married Nick DaPrano on October 23rd, 2021 at the Woodcliff Hotel & Spa in Rochester! Congratulations Dr. Peres! We wish you both many years of happiness together!

Dr. Jesse Teng (Ortho 08’ – pictured above right) is the current president of the Southwestern Society of Orthodontists, past president of the Texas Association of Orthodontists and serves on the Council of Communications for the American Association of Orthodontists. He has also been appointed by Texas Governor Greg Abbott to the Dental Review Committee of the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners.
Residents, Faculty and Alumni have been very busy with research and we are proud of the many publications that have come out of Eastman Ortho this year. They include:


Malik, S; Javed, F; Michelogiannakis, D; Rossouw, PE. “Some thoughts on retainers: a narrative reflection.” American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics-Clinical Companion. 2021

Allahham DO, Kotsailidi EA, Barmak AB, Rossouw PE, El-Bialy T, Michelogiannakis D. Association between non-extraction clear aligner therapy and alveolar bone dehiscences and fenestrations in adults with mild-to-moderate crowding. American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics. 2021 accepted for publication


THANK YOU!

We would like to thank all of our alumni and the following orthodontics companies for their support and donations to the Eastman Department of Orthodontics:

- SPEED System Orthodontics
  - Align
  - Infinitas TADS
- American Orthodontics
- World Class Technologies
- Ormco

We look forward to reconnecting with all our alumni and Eastman family in the near future!
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you have announcements to be published in the next HOTSEAT publication or if you are interested in contributing by writing, please contact Linda Stauber at linda_stauber@urmc.rochester.edu

2022 Editors: Barbara Sterniczuk, Daisy Salazar, Camille Leong

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